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immensely relieve neutral countries and their seafaring citizens, and private unoffending citizens of powers at war, from the serious interference with their rights which every war between maritime states now causes. Civilization has certainly advanced far enough in the maintenance of the rights of men and of organized states to oblige nations, if they will still insist at times on being barbarians, to do their fighting outside of the society and pathways of civilized men.

Mr. Atkinson supports his suggestion by the cases of neutralization which the powers have already found necessary in the interests of justice and civilization, and he has limited the proposed neutralization to the great routes of commerce on the Atlantic.

The question may well be raised whether the time has not fully come when the entire ocean or oceans, beyond the three mile limit of territorial waters, should be declared neutral and inviolable at any time by war. Trade and travel are now nearly incessant upon practically all parts of the seas. These non-territorial waters are the common property of all the nations, and every nation has the right to their use at all times and in all legitimate ways that do not interfere with the rights of the others.

It may well be asked what right any two nations have to be engaged in bloody conflict on any part of these common waters or to have their huge sea-dogs prowling about over them seeking whom they may devour. International law is already far enough advanced in its doctrine of mutual rights and duties, if this was consistently applied, to make all fighting on common waters henceforth impossible. If nations that persist in going to war at this late day were obliged to do all their sea-fighting within the three-mile limit, we should soon hear no more of war, and the question of naval expansion would quickly cease to be interesting to anybody.

We are not deluding ourselves with believing that the powers will proceed to do this great and wise thing of neutralizing all the public seas the next time they get together in conference, as the United States and Great Britain long ago did in the case of the Great Lakes. But is it too much to ask that they will, in their own several and joint interests, and under the behest of their large obligations to one another, seriously try to see if they cannot find a way of carrying the principle of neutralization, to which they have all been in some degree committed for nearly a century, to the extent of banishing war forever from the great common commercial highways of the world across the Atlantic?

The delegates to the Boston Peace Congress, for whom she did so much, not only in Boston but also in New York, will be pained to learn of the sudden death, December 2, of Miss Elizabeth Harrington Greene.

## Editorial Notes.

### The Treaties of Arbitration.

Meetings have been held in many cities of the country to urge the prompt ratification of the arbitration treaties signed by Mr. Hay when they are submitted to the Senate. The most impressive of these was the great meeting held in Carnegie Hall, New York, on the 16th of December. There was a very large attendance. The meeting was called to order by John Crosby Brown. Mayor George B. McClellan presided, and was the first speaker. The other speakers were Archbishop Ireland, Bishop Henry C. Potter, Hon. Oscar S. Straus, Judge George Gray and Lieutenant-Governor-elect Bruce. All these urged the prompt ratification of the treaties, as did Ex-President Cleveland, Carl Schurz, John Mitchell, Andrew Carnegie and Nelson A. Miles, from whom letters were read. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, the method of settling international disputes and difficulties by arbitration rather than by force is in accord with the highest precepts of reason and humanity; and

*Whereas*, the civilized nations of the world have, by jointly establishing the Permanent Court at The Hague, recognized the moral obligation which rests upon them to avoid the horrors of war by the submission of their controversies to judicial determination; and

*Whereas*, the government of the United States, which for the past half-century has been foremost in the actual resort to arbitration, has negotiated and is negotiating treaties with various powers making compulsory upon the contracting nations the reference of disputes of a certain nature to the International Court at The Hague; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, the citizens of New York, in mass meeting assembled, favor the extension by the government of the United States of the principle of international arbitration to all questions which cannot otherwise be brought to a pacific determination; and it is further

*Resolved*, That, since the proposed treaties extend the operation of arbitration in accord with the moral, political and economic interests of this country and of the world, we earnestly request our representatives of the United States Senate to exert their influence in behalf of such treaties and of their prompt consideration and approval by the Senate; and it is further

*Resolved*, That the president and the secretary of this meeting be and are hereby directed to forthwith forward copies of these resolutions to the President of the United States, the Senators from the State of New York, to the President of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### The Nobel Peace Prize.

The Nobel Peace Prize of nearly forty thousand dollars was awarded for the fourth time on the 10th of December. It was given this year to the Institute of International Law, the first time that it has been awarded to a society instead of an individual. The Institute of International Law is not much known to the general public. It is a different organization from the International Law Association, though both were founded in the same year. The Institute is composed of a body of specialists doing their work for the promotion of international law in a purely scientific and technical way. It was organized at Ghent on the 12th of September, 1873. Among the

more eminent of the founders were Bluntschli, Emile de Laveleye, Mancini, Gustave Moynier and Rollin-Jacquemyns. Its present president is Professor Albéric Rollin-Jacquemyns. The Nobel Prize was given in 1901 to Frederic Passy and Henri Dunant, the latter the founder of the Red Cross Society. In 1902 it was awarded to Mr. Elie Ducommun, Secretary of the International Peace Bureau and Dr. Albert Gobat, Secretary of the Interparliamentary Bureau, both at Berne. In 1903 the prize went to Hon. William Randal Cremer, M. P., founder of the Interparliamentary Union, and for thirty years Secretary of the International Arbitration League of London.

One could wish that the fall of Port Arthur on the first day of this month might lead to a truce of hostilities as a preliminary to final peace between the combatants. The siege has been one of the fiercest and bloodiest in history. It lasted about eight months, and cost the lives of from sixty to a hundred thousand men. In the later stages of the fighting the whole place became a veritable slaughter pen. Scarcely a Russian soldier within was left unwounded when the fortress fell, and the whole world knew that in the assaults upon it the Japanese were sent to death as if they had been mere animals for the *abattoir*. One would think that both nations, if they had any sense of humanity left in them, would want to end the awful tragedy without further sacrifices. "Honor" itself, of the ancient barbarous type, ought to be satisfied, for of heroism, courage, stubborn daring and resistance, of the kind that it was, there was no lack on either side. But we much fear that the fall of the stronghold does not mean peace, but that it is only the signal for further and even more desperate and deadly fighting where the great armies of the two powers are entrenched against each other on the Shakhe river. But whatever the disposition of the belligerents to continue the conflict to the bitter end, the powers which signed the Hague Convention, and pledged themselves thereby to use all their efforts on behalf of peace, are taking upon themselves a very heavy responsibility if they do not at the present juncture throw the whole weight of their combined moral force into the breach to try to put an end to the further continuance of the inhuman spectacle. If the twelve most important powers that signed the Hague Convention would act at once, and act with the seriousness and force which the situation demands, the moral weight of their appeal would, we believe, be irresistible, and the demon of destruction would be forced to retire from the scene. Brilliant speeches at Lord Mayors' dinners, at Peace Congresses, at receptions to Parliamentary delegations are all admir-

able, but will not Mr. Hay, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Delcassé and the rest of them give us a still higher and nobler evidence of their devotion to humanity?

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#### International Peace Bureau.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Society of the International Peace Bureau was held at Berne, Switzerland, on the 14th of November. Fifteen Peace Societies were represented. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Fredrik Bajer of Copenhagen, President of the Bureau. The financial statement showed that the Bureau had expended the past year nine thousand three hundred and seven francs, leaving a deficit of seven hundred and forty-two francs. The estimated expense for the coming year was nine thousand six hundred francs. Twenty-six members of the Commission, or Standing Committee of the Bureau were chosen: Dr. Adolf Richter, Count Bothmer and Professor Quidde from Germany; Baroness von Suttner from Austria; Senator La Fontaine from Belgium; Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood and Mrs. Lockwood from the United States; Frederic Passy, Emile Arnaud and Gaston Moch from France; Miss Ellen Robinson, Dr. W. Evans Darby and Felix Moscheles from Great Britain; Mr. Kemény from Hungary; E. T. Moneta and Dr. Giretti from Italy; H. Horst from Norway; Dr. Baart de la Faille of the Netherlands; Magalhaës Lima from Portugal; Nicolas Fleva from Roumania; J. Novicow from Russia; Edward Wavrinsky from Sweden; Elie Ducommun, Henri Morel and Ludwig Stein from Switzerland. The meeting also took steps for the carrying out by the Bureau of the matters committed to it by the resolutions of the Boston Peace Congress. A resolution was adopted expressing gratitude to the government of the United States for its initiation in calling a new Conference at The Hague, and the wish that all the nations of the world without exception may be invited to take part in it.

Mr. Hodgson Pratt, who had declined on account of his age and health to be reëlected a member of the Commission, was chosen its Honorary President.

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#### Interparliamentary Visitation.

The promised visit of parliamentary delegates from Denmark, Norway and Sweden to Paris took place on the 24th of November. There were ninety members of the delegation. They were met at the station in Paris by Mr. d'Estournelles de Constant and the diplomatic representatives of their respective countries. The next day they breakfasted privately with various members of the French Chamber of Deputies. In the afternoon a deputation from the peace association "La Paix par le Droit" was received by them at the Hotel Continental. A

reception was given them by the editors of the "*Courier Européen*." Then they called successively upon President Loubet, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, and Prime Minister Combes. In the Senate they were welcomed by Mr. Fallières, and in the Chamber by Mr. Brisson. In the evening a brilliant reception was given them by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Delcassé, and his wife. On the evening of the 28th of November a banquet was tendered them at the Grand Hôtel by the French parliamentary arbitration group. Mr. d'Estournelles de Constant, through whose influence chiefly the delegation had come, presided, and an address of welcome full of youthful vigor and enthusiasm was delivered by Mr. Frederic Passy, in which he laid strong emphasis on the fact that the Scandinavian delegation had been sent officially by their national assemblies. At the close of Mr. Passy's speech the whole company rose, full of emotion, and gave him a perfect ovation. After Paris the delegation visited Nîmes at the request of Professor Theodore Ruysen, Mr. Prudhommeaux and others, where it was received with the same cordiality by both the Nîmes Peace Society and the city officials. The visit of this Scandinavian delegation to France was in every way a success, and will greatly strengthen the arbitration movement, which has already made such remarkable progress in Western Europe.

**The Presidents  
on Peace.**

Hon. Samuel J. Barrows, Ex-Member of Congress from Massachusetts, has compiled and published in the *Independent* for December 22, 1904, an extremely interesting selection of utterances of the twenty-five Presidents of the United States on the subject of peace. He makes no comment on the passages cited, but leaves them to speak for themselves. In the case of all but three of the Presidents only one quotation is given. In most of the instances the Presidents were speaking of our relations to other countries, but in one or two peace was spoken of in its more general aspects. Assuming that the single quotation gives us a fair idea of that particular President's general views, we have been interested to notice that the whole line of the nation's Chief Magistrates have shown remarkable unanimity in maintaining that it has always been and is the most sacred duty of the government to maintain relations of the strictest justice and the most cordial friendship with all the nations of the world, and that a policy of peace is a part of the nation's mission. Some of them have, of course, emphasized this duty more strongly than others. Of the nine Presidents since the Civil War the citation of the opinions of six show them to have been earnest advocates of arbitration, and the other three are known to have been equally staunch friends of this method of settling disputes. The great

progress of arbitration in recent years is indicated by the fact that none of the quotations from the fifteen Presidents up to the time of the Civil War mentions the subject, while it is so prominently brought out in those of the post-bellum Presidents. The duty of diplomacy to be pacific as well as straightforward is emphasized from the very first. The greatest friend of peace in general among the Presidents was of course Thomas Jefferson. In the passage cited by Mr. Barrows he says: "I abhor war and view it as the greatest scourge of mankind." All the Presidents of the United States except possibly Jefferson have of course left a place in their political creed for war, as a last resort, but it is something to be most grateful for that they have all during the whole course of the nation's history believed in and advocated that kind of a policy of fairness, goodwill and kindly disposition toward other countries which, as long as it is persisted in, makes it practically certain that peace between us and them will never be broken.

**The Thibault  
Peace Prize.**

A prize of fifteen hundred francs (\$300) is offered through the International Peace Bureau at Berne for the best essay on International Arbitration from the following points of view:

What are the conditions to be fulfilled by international arbitration in order to constitute a complete system of justice between the nations?

What are the international conventions to be concluded in order that this system may be applicable to the entire body of the nations, and how may the conclusion of these treaties be reached in the quickest possible way?

The prize is called the "Narcisse Thibault Prize," we suppose from the name of the person who furnishes the money. Any person may compete for the prize. The essays may be written in French, German or English, and must be in the hands of the Peace Bureau at Berne, or of Mr. Emile Arnaud, Luzarches, France, by the 30th of December, 1905. Any valuable essay not receiving the prize will be given honorable mention. Each contestant must put at the beginning of his essay two devices, which must be reproduced on a sealed envelope enclosing his full name and address.

Dr. Thomas Barclay, ex-president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, well known for his earnest labors in bringing about the conclusion of the Anglo-French arbitration treaty and in the general amelioration of Anglo-French relations, has been knighted by King Edward for these eminent services. It will be remembered that more than a year ago the French government made Frederic Passy, the eminent French apostle of peace, Commander of the Legion of Honor, in recognition of his distinguished services.